As for their statement that this publication suggested there were going to be a lot of changes at City Hall, that "suggestion" came, not from me, but from Mayor Mancuso in a press conference on Thursday, July 30th, attended by all the media, including Mr. Baum of the News, at which time the Mayor informed the press, quote, "Within the next two weeks I am going to evaluate every department head, including the managing director." It was the Mayor who "suggested" that no job in City Hall was secure, that if his people didn't shape up he was going to replace them. The Mayor said it. I reported it. Perhaps I should have asked him if he was lying.

Finally, while Mr. Heth pompously denounces area residents and school children for what he terms, "complacency," and meanders around town snapping pictures of overgrown brush, trash along the curb, a run-down house, dirty toilets in the high school, or empty flower boxes left on the sidewalk by school children, he chooses to ignore an entire city block practically devoid of any parking meters, just twenty feet from his front door.

I had a great deal of respect for the Carbondale News and for its owner-publisher, Tom Heth, a journalist in the truest sense of the word, but Tom Heth retired and Phil Heth took over, and since then my respect for the Carbondale News has gone down the tubes.

AROUND TOWN.....

A group of local citizens, which includes members of the Carbondale Fire Department, has gone ahead and taken the initiative to get the clock in the tower of the city hall building repaired. If you're over thirty and grew up in Carbondale, then that clock is a part of your life. I can't tell you how many times I checked it walking to and from Benjamin Franklin High School. Remember taking the shortcut through Newberry's?

For want of a better name, let me refer to them as the Clock Committee. On their own they contacted the Rodgers Clock Service, located in Harrisburg, and that firm sent a representative to Carbondale to check out the clock. The Rodgers firm, after examining the clock, quoted a figure of $3,000 for the repairing and electrification of the clock. The repair includes a one-year guarantee.

If you're interested in joining the "Committee to Restore the Carbondale Clock," they're meeting tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 in the meeting room at Carbondale Fire Headquarters. If you can't attend the meeting but would like to donate, however small or large, make your check payable to the "Committee to Restore the Carbondale Clock," care of S. Robert Powell, 41 North Church Street, Carbondale, Pa. 18407.

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If you're looking for a chance to own your own home, but not at today's mortgage rates, get to see one of the members of the Carbondale Lions Club. They're sponsoring a raffle, first prize being a two-bedroom, two-story home appraised at $32,900. There are only 1000 chances, at $50 a chance. It's a lot of money for a chance, but the prize is sure worth it if you should be the lucky winner!

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One of Carbondale's own will be appearing on TV channel 22, WDAU's Noon Newsscene. Debbie Arnese, employed by Playboy Club as a Playboy Bunny in their Atlantic City casino, will be interviewed by Newsscene's Mary Ellen Keating on Tuesday. It's at noon. Miss Arnese is a delightful person and the interview is interesting.

On Thursday night city council met with managing director Pete Judge and finance director Joe Masco to hammer out council's version of the 1982 budget, which doesn't show any increase in millage. One of the ways council came up with enough money in the General Fund to operate the city with was to reduce the 6 mills earmarked for the Sinking Fund to 4 mills. The 3 mills they picked up they put into the General Fund. Reducing the funding for the Recreation Fund means that some employees would have to be laid off over the winter months. Council presents its version of the 1982 budget to the Mayor on Monday.

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The city has a prospective buyer for the old M&M Bank building, next door to the municipal parking lot. This is the building the city paid $65,000 for, failed to keep it up, let the roof deteriorate to the point where the inside has been practically destroyed, and where the city is now having trouble unloading it. Legal ads will have to be placed in the local papers and the building put out on bid. The prospective buyer is a prominent local businessman and if he can buy the building, renovate it and get it back on the tax rolls, fine. But I sure wouldn't like to see that building sold for a paltry sum, no matter how much money has to be spent in renovating it.

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Congratulations to Eleanor and Frank Grecco Sr., good friends who will be celebrating their 38th wedding anniversary on Friday. Frank is Treasurer of the Lackawanna County Republican Party and a longtime employee of Sangamo-Weston in Archbald. They have two children, Frank Jr., Carbondale City Councilman who is also a member of the Board of Directors of Farview State Hospital, and head of the Security Department at Sears, Viewmont Mall, and daughter Jean Marie Stoklosa and grandson, Jimmy Stoklosa. Best wishes for many more happy years.

AND FINALLY.....

To all our friends, from the News, Advertising and Circulation Departments of the Carbondale Office, Have A Happy Thanksgiving!